

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9329

S E C R E T KINSHASA 7191

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS/SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG OVIP (SCHAUFEELE/ROGERS)

1 WE MET WITH MOBUTU FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AUG 26 AT HIS N'SELE RESIDENCE OUTSIDE KINSHASA. ALSO PRESENT WERE FONMIN NGUZA AND AMB CUTLER.

2. WE TOLD MOBUTU THAT OUR SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS SINCE APRIL CONVINCED US THAT AN ALTERNATIVE TO A VIOLENT SOLUTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS WAS POSSIBLE AND STRESSED THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM WE HAD ACHIEVED BY MOVING AHEAD QUICKLY. WE THEN BRIEFED MOBUTU ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF OUR STRATEGY, MAKING SELECTIVE USE OF PREPARED TALKING POINTS. MOBUTU LISTENED INTENTLY AND REITERATED HIS APPROVAL OF OUR EFFORTS.

3. ON RHODESIA WE TOUCHED ONLY LIGHTLY ON CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF OUR THINKING. MOBUTU AGREED TOTALLY ON NEED TO MAKE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR RHODESIAN WHITE POPULATION AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT RESETTLEMENT IN ZAIRE OF RHODESIANS WHO WOULD ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE APPROACH OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO MAKE SIMILAR OFFERS, MENTIONING KENYA, ZAMBIA, MALAWI AND BOTSWANA AS LIKELY CANDIDATES. I ENDORSED MOBUTU'S SUGGESTION AND SAID WE WOULD FOLLOW IT UP IN OUR PLANNING.

4. MOBUTU RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO INCLUDE SWAPO IN NAMIBIAN SOLUTION,

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ALTHOUGH IS IS EVIDENT THAT HE IS NOW SUSPICIOUS THAT SWAPO IS

DOMINATED BY SOVIETS. HE EXPLAINED HOW AT COLOMBO SUMMIT NGUZA HAD TALKED STERNLY TO SWAPO REPS, MAKING POINT THAT SWAPO WAS MISTAKEN IN CUTTING LINES WITH ZAIRE SINCE ANGOLAN WAR, WHEN NAMIBIA WOULD SOME DAY NEED ZAIRE'S SUPPORT.

5. WE TOLD MOBUTU WE WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIM AS WE DEVELOPED OUR SCENARIO AND, IF RESULTS WERE ENCOURAGING, THAT YOU ANTICIPATED RETURNING TO AFRICA NEXT MONTH FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. MOBUTU INDICATED HE WOULD WELCOME ANOTHER VISIT AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO SEPT 27, WHEN HE WILL BE VISITING BOTSWANA FOR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS.

6. ON OTHER MATTERS, MOBUTU SAID HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A DELEGATION FROM UNITA WHICH ADVISED HIM QUITE FRANKLY OF THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE ATTACKING THE BENGUELA RAILROAD EVEN THOUGH THEY REALIZED THIS MIGHT INTERFERE WITH ZAIRE'S FUTURE USE OF THE LINE. THEY SAID THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED BY AUTHORITATIVE BRITISH SOURCES THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVT INTENDS TO NATIONALIZE THE LINE AND TURN IT OVER TO THE EAST GERMANS AND BULGARIANS TO RUN. MOBUTU SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS PROSPECT AS INEVITABLE, ALTHOUGH HE MADE CLEAR TO THE UNITA REPS HE WAS IN NO POSITION TO ASSIST MATERIALLY THEIR CONTINUING MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST THE MPLA REGIME. HE ALSO NOTED THAT FLEC HAD RECENTLY BEEN LAUNCHING ATTACKS AGAINST CABINDA AND HE HAD BEEN OBLIGED FORCEFULLY TO PREVENT THEM FROM USING ZAIRIAN TERRITORY FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA REMAINED HIGHLY FLUID, TO THE POINT THERE ARE IN EFFECT TWO REGIMES IN LUANDA: NETO'S AND ALVES'.

7. MOBUTU INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH NGUZA'S TALKS WITH YOU AND OTHERS IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH. HE SAID NGUZA WOULD RETURN FOR THE UNGA IN SEPT., WHEN HE IS SCHEDULED TO BE FIRST AFRICAN TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY ON SEPT 27. THIS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

YOUR SPEECH AND, MOBUTU NOTED, WILL AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENDORSE YOUR REMARKS. MOBUTU ALSO MENTIONED NGUZA'S USEFUL CONTACTS AT COLUMBO WITH GARBA, WHICH HAD FACILITATED AN IMPROVEMENT OF ZAIRE'S RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA. HE AGREED WITH OUR OBSERVATION THAT NIGERIA SEEMED TO BE HAVING SOME SECOND THOUGHTS REGARDING ITS RECENT ORIENTATION INCLUDING RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. HE STRESSED THAT

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GARBA WAS A KEY PLAYER IN THIS RESEPECT, A VOICE OF REASON IN AN OTHERWISE CHAOTIC REGIME.

8. MOBUTU MADE SEVERAL PASSING REFERENCES TO HIS CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT HIS DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND SECURITY SITUATIONS. WE ASSURED HIM THAT WE WERE WORKING HARD IN BOTH AREAS AND SHOULD HAVE SOME POSITIVE RESULTS FOR HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT HE IS LOOKING TO US FOR IMPORTANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WE

SHOULD MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY WITH AN INITIAL INPUT THAT TAKES INTO
ACCOUNT THE BUILD-UP OF HEAVY WEAPONS IN NEIGHBTRING ANGOLA AND
ALSO IN CONGO. THE EMBASSY IS SENDING IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THIS MATTER WHICH I URGE BE GIVEN PRIORITY CONSIERATION.
CUTLER

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NNN

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